



Figure 1A. General Location Map.

Table 3A. Area (acres) within the proposed permit area that would contain Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative (BEC) facilities and activities covered under the requested permit. An “existing right-of-way (ROW)” is defined as a ROW in place prior to the installation of the facility; the most typical example of an existing ROW is a roadway ROW. All fixed-foundation facilities are assumed to occur outside of existing ROW.

Facilities	Area	Comments
Existing facilities	2,211.5	
above-ground distribution lines within existing ROWs	1,922.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> approximately 2,791,623 linear-feet of line within a 30-foot ROW typical maintenance activities: routine line inspection of about 264,000 linear-feet per year; primary vegetation management of about 264,000 linear-feet per year (may include trimming limbs encroaching on lines, removing smaller vegetation, mowing, spot herbicide treatment, may cause some soil disturbance); secondary vegetation management on about 114,048 linear-feet per year (may include tree trimming, removal of some woody vegetation, herbicide application, use of some heavy equipment, typically with some soil disturbance) typical repair activities: repairs and emergency repairs as needed; line/pole replacement of about 114,048 linear-feet per year (may include some area outside of the ROW for storage and temporary construction easement, some medium and/or heavy equipment, typically with some soil disturbance)
above-ground distribution lines outside of an existing ROWs	287.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> approximately 417,139 linear-feet within 30-foot ROWs typical maintenance activities: routine line inspection of about 264,000 linear-feet per year; primary vegetation management of about 264,000 linear-feet per year (may include trimming limbs encroaching on lines, removing smaller vegetation, mowing, spot herbicide treatment, may cause some soil disturbance); secondary vegetation management on about 114,048 linear-feet per year (may include tree trimming, removal of some woody vegetation, herbicide application, use of some heavy equipment, typically with some soil disturbance) typical repair activities: repairs and emergency repairs as needed; line/pole replacement of about 114,048 linear-feet per year (may include some area outside of the ROW for storage and temporary construction easement, some medium and/or heavy equipment, typically with some soil disturbance)
fixed-foundation Paige Substation	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management of vegetation is similar to that described above for linear facilities
Future facilities	2,066.1	
above-ground distribution lines within existing ROWs	1,898.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 2,756,160 linear-feet within a 30-foot ROW maintenance, repair, and replacement as described above for existing facilities
above-ground distribution lines outside of existing ROWs	143.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 411,840 linear-feet within a 30-foot ROW maintenance, repair, and replacement as described above for existing facilities
fixed-foundation substation	24.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> management of vegetation would be similar to that described above for linear facilities
TOTAL AREA	4,277.6	

Table 5A. Are a (acres) occupied by existing facilities and areas anticipated to be occupied by future facilities installed under the requested permit. An “existing right-of-way (ROW)” is defined as a ROW in place prior to the installation of the facility; the most typical example of an existing ROW is a roadway ROW. All fixed-foundation facilities are considered to occur outside of an existing ROW. The percentages of future linear facilities placed in existing ROWs are assumed to be similar to those percentages for existing facilities. See Tables 1-4 for more specific information. Numbers in parentheses are not included in totals as these activities would be conducted within areas containing existing facilities.

Applicant		Area
Aqua Water Supply Corporation		779.6
	Existing facilities	597.4
	below-ground linear facilities within an existing ROW (about 50 percent of the total linear facilities)	298.1
	below-ground linear facilities outside of an existing ROW (about 50 percent of the total linear facilities)	298.1
	fixed-foundation facilities	1.2
	Facilities to be installed	182.2
	below-ground linear facilities within an existing ROW (about 50 percent of the total linear facilities)	86.1
	below-ground linear facilities outside of an existing ROW (about 50 percent of the total linear facilities)	86.1
	fixed-foundation facilities	10.0
	install meters at below-ground water line	(82.6)
	repair of below-ground water lines	(15.8)
Lower Colorado River Authority		1,385.7
	Existing facilities	1,203.6
	below-ground linear facilities within an existing ROW (about 90 percent of the total below-ground linear facilities)	19.8
	below-ground linear facilities outside of an existing ROW (about 10 percent of the total below-ground linear facilities)	2.2
	above-ground linear facilities outside of an existing ROW	1,066.8
	boundary/fences at the Lake Bastrop Recreation Area	23.3
	hiking trails at South Shore Park	5.9
	fixed-foundation facilities	85.6

Table 5A Continued

	Facilities to be installed	182.1
	below-ground linear facilities within an existing	39.0
	fixed-foundation facilities	36.4
	upgrade to above-ground linear facilities (estimated to be about 10 percent of the total area of upgraded facilities)	106.7
	repair to below-ground water lines	(1.5)
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative		4,277.6
	Existing facilities	2,211.5
	above-ground linear facilities within an existing ROW (about 87 percent of the total linear facilities)	1,922.9
	above-ground linear facilities outside of an existing ROW (about 13 percent of the total linear facilities)	287.3
	fixed-foundation facilities	1.3
	Facilities to be installed	2,066.1
	above-ground linear facilities within an existing ROW (about 87 percent of the total linear facilities)	1,898.4
	above-ground linear facilities outside of an existing ROW (about 13 percent of the total linear facilities)	143.7
	fixed-foundation facilities	24.0
Austin Energy		228.7
	Existing facilities	228.7
	above-ground linear facilities	228.7
	Facilities to be installed	0.0
	none	0.0
TOTAL ACTIVITY AREA		6,671.6

Table 6A. Areas (acres) of existing facilities and anticipated future facilities occurring within and outside of existing rights-of-way (ROWS). An “existing ROW” is defined as a ROW in place prior to the installation of the facility; the most typical example of an existing ROW is a roadway ROW. Areas attributable to Aqua meter sets (82.6 acres), Aqua line repairs (15.8 acres), and LCRA line repairs (1.5 acres) are not included in this table, but would occur within ROWs. See Tables 1-5 for more specific information.

Facility			Area
Facilities within an existing ROW			4,264.3
	Existing facilities		2,240.8
		Aqua Water Supply Corp.	298.1
		Lower Colorado River Authority	19.8
		Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative	1,922.9
		Austin Energy	0.0
	Future facilities		2,023.5
		Aqua Water Supply Corp.	86.1
		Lower Colorado River Authority	39.0
		Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative	1,898.4
		Austin Energy	0.0
Facilities outside of an existing ROW			2,407.3
	Existing facilities		2,000.4
		Aqua Water Supply Corp.	299.3
		Lower Colorado River Authority	1,183.8
		Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative	288.6
		Austin Energy	228.7
	Future facilities		406.9
		Aqua Water Supply Corp.	96.1
		Lower Colorado River Authority	143.1
		Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative	167.7
		Austin Energy	0.0
TOTAL ACTIVITY AREA			6,671.6

Table 7A. Areas (acres) of existing and anticipated future facilities as percentages of the proposed permit area and activity area. See tables 1-6 of the EA/HCP and tables 3A, 5A, and 6A for more specific information.

Description	Area (acres)	Percentage of Proposed Permit Area	Percentage of Activity Area
Proposed permit area	142,526	100.0	--
Activity Area	6,671.6	4.7	100.0
Existing facilities	4,241.2	3.0	63.6
within existing ROWs	2,240.8	1.6	33.6
outside of existing ROWs	2,000.4	1.4	30.0
Future facilities	2,430.4	1.7	36.4
within existing ROWs	2,023.5	1.4	30.3
outside of existing ROWs	406.9	0.3	6.1

**BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
JULY 5 2005, ADDENDUM
TO THE FEBRUARY 16, 2005 UTILITIES EA/HCP**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Bluebonnet) is proposing to relocate its corporate headquarters to a new facility in Bastrop County, Texas. The proposed location of the new facility is within the designated critical habitat of the endangered Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*) and within the proposed permit area covered under the February 16, 2005 Environmental Assessment/Habitat Conservation Plan (EA/HCP) for incidental take of the Houston toad by Aqua Water Supply Corporation (Aqua), Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Austin Energy (AE), and Bluebonnet. Bluebonnet has requested that the construction of the new facility be incorporated into the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP. This request is being submitted after finalization of the EA/HCP and Biological Opinion (BO), but before permit issuance. This Addendum is being provided in an effort to include all known projects prior to finalization of the permit. Additionally, Bluebonnet's proposal necessitates this addendum to the EA/HCP to adjust acreage totals specified in Section 4.1 of the EA/HCP.

The addendum to the EA/HCP proposed by Bluebonnet reallocates acreage from future above ground distribution lines outside of existing ROWs to future fixed foundation facilities, thereby increasing the acreage for future fixed foundation facilities from 4 acres to 24 acres, and decreasing the acreage for future above ground distribution lines outside of existing ROWs from 283.7 acres to 143.7 acres. As discussed in the sections below, this change would result in a net reduction of acreage impacts covered under the EA/HCP, but would not result in a decrease in mitigation funds generated by the EA/HCP.

Section 4.1 of the EA/HCP allows for projects outside of the original scope of the document provided the applicant consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to determine if potential impacts are within the limits set forth in the EA/HCP and BO. The proposed addendum does not appreciably reduce the amount or value of mitigation, or appreciably increase the level of take already anticipated in the BO, therefore, the addendum is not being submitted for public comment in the Federal Register.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION

Bluebonnet is proposing to relocate its corporate headquarters from Giddings, Texas to a location in Bastrop County northeast of the City of Bastrop. The property purchased for the relocation is approximately 460 acres in size. It is located on the north side of State Highway 21 approximately 3.0 miles northeast of Bastrop, Texas and adjacent to the LCRA's Sim Gideon Power Station (Figure 1A). Bluebonnet's proposed headquarters

facility would include administration offices, a control center, an auditorium, parking, and an access road. Bluebonnet desires to begin construction no later than December 2005, and expects construction to be complete by late 2006.

The exact size and layout of the proposed headquarters facility has not been determined, but it will not exceed 20 acres of total disturbance. To mitigate for construction of the headquarters facility and possibly other facilities on the 460-acre property, Bluebonnet is proposing to amend the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP to increase the total acreage allowed for future fixed foundation facilities from 4 acres to 24 acres, and reduce the allowable acreage for future above-ground distribution lines outside of existing ROWs from 283.7 acres to 143.7 acres.

Bluebonnet's long range plans for the property also include constructing a Houston toad education/public outreach facility, and preserving the majority of the property for the conservation and management of the Houston toad.

While not included within this proposal, Bluebonnet may also construct a museum for the Camino Real. If this occurs, Bluebonnet will consult with the Service at that time.

3.0 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

The construction of Bluebonnet's proposed headquarters will result in the creation of a maximum of 20 acres of fixed foundation facilities on the 460-acre site. To avoid and minimize impacts to the Houston toad, Bluebonnet plans to locate the facility in existing clearings on the property. Since Houston toads are unlikely to utilize large clearings, placing the facility in an existing clearing will greatly reduce potential impacts to the Houston toad. To the maximum extent practicable, Bluebonnet will implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in Section 6.1.2 of the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP during and after construction of the facility.

As requested by Bluebonnet, the proposed addendum to the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP will reduce Bluebonnet's allowable acreage for future above-ground distribution lines outside of existing ROWs by almost 50% to 143.7 acres, while allowing an increase from 4 acres to 24 acres for future fixed foundation facilities over the 30-year life of the permit. This change will result in an overall reduction of Bluebonnet's future facilities in the proposed permit area from 2,186.1 acres to 2,066.1 acres and will likely result in a reduction of take of the Houston toad due to the reduced acreage impacts. Tables 3A, 5A, 6A, and 7A reflect the revised acreage totals for the EA/HCP and are intended to replace Tables 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP.

Implementation of the proposed action will not result in a decrease in mitigation revenues over the life of the permit since the decrease in mitigation fees paid for above-ground distribution lines outside of existing ROWs will be offset by the increase in mitigation fees paid for fixed foundation facilities. In addition to paying mitigating fees through the EA/HCP process, Bluebonnet also plans to construct a Houston toad education center,

and set aside the majority of the 460-acre property for the conservation and management of the Houston toad.

4.0 MITIGATION

As described in Section 6.2.1 through Section 6.2.1.3 of the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP, mitigation for new facilities is based on the anticipated magnitude of potential adverse impacts associated with the facility and the cost of purchasing land within the permit area. The magnitude of impacts to the Houston toad resulting from the installation of linear facilities differs from those resulting from the installation of fixed foundation facilities. Accordingly, the calculation of mitigation fees for these activities differs. Because above-ground distribution lines will provide habitat for the Houston toad following construction, they are mitigated at a lower ratio (0.15) than fixed foundation facilities (1.05), which provide no habitat after construction. The rationale for these mitigation ratios is described in detail in Section 6.2.1.1 of the February 16, 2005 EA/HCP.

Mitigation fees for the installation of new fixed-foundation facilities are calculated based on the area permanently occupied by non-vegetative cover and the area cleared that supported vegetative cover. Areas permanently occupied by non-vegetative cover would include all areas within a tract containing a fixed-foundation facility that, as a result of the installation of that facility, would be covered by building footprints, paved and/or base-filled roadways, walkways, parking areas, and any other areas within the tract occupied by pavement, cement, or base-fill, as a result of the installation. Areas cleared but not permanently occupied by cover would include all areas within a project area containing a fixed-foundation facility that, as a result of the installation of that facility, were cleared but remain free of permanent non-vegetative cover.

Assuming construction of the new facility begins in the first year of the permit (2005), and assuming the area permanently occupied by non-vegetative cover totals 20 acres, the mitigation fee for this facility would be calculated as follows:

Area of non-vegetative cover = 20 acres

Price for land (\$/acre) in Bastrop County during year 1 = \$2,116.00

Mitigation ratio for fixed foundation facilities = 1.05

Mitigation Fee = (20.0 acres) x (1.05) x (\$2,116/acre) = \$44,436.

In addition to paying mitigating fees through the EA/HCP process, Bluebonnet also plans to construct a Houston toad education center, and set aside the majority of the 460-acre property for the conservation and management of the Houston toad.

5.0 ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

The proposed action will result in the generation of an additional \$44,436 in mitigation fees from Bluebonnet in Year 1 of the permit. The proposed action will also result in a net decrease in acreage impacts of the EA/HCP over the life of the permit.

Additional benefits associated with the proposed action include the preservation of a large block of prime Houston toad habitat that will provide a corridor between Bastrop State Park, LCRA lands, and the Boy Scouts property to the north. These three blocks of land will provide one of the largest, if not the largest block of contiguous Houston toad habitat within the critical habitat of Bastrop County. The development plans proposed by Bluebonnet will ensure that the property sustains only light development and that all development is designed to minimize or avoid adverse impacts to the Houston toad. Undeveloped portions of the property will be managed in perpetuity for the conservation of the Houston toad.

Additionally, the Houston toad educational/public outreach facility proposed by Bluebonnet will provide a hands-on facility where the public will have the opportunity to view and learn about the Houston toad and Houston toad conservation. The facility will be an asset to the City of Bastrop, Bastrop County, and to the preservation and conservation of the Houston toad.